

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01

USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11

RSR-01 /150 W

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P 080850 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9981

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 2936

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2215

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, MT, NATO

SUBJECT: MALTA: SPECIAL PAYMENTS

REFS: ( A ) VALLETTA 777, ( B ) VALLETTA 786, ( C ) STATE 78077

SUMMARY: ON NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES PLUS UK REACHED CONSENSUS MAY 7 TO MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS THAT ARE DUE MAY 14, AND TO SUSPEND DIALOGUE WITH MALTA FOR THE PRESENT. ITALIAN REP INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSING THAT THE CONTRIBUTORS TELL GOM BEFORE OCTOBER 16 SPECIAL PAYMENT DATE THAT THEIR SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR 1973 WILL BE THE SAME AS THE ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES MENTIONED ON JANUARY 10. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTONS VIEWS BY MAY 21 ON SUCH AN ITALIAN PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PREPARATION FOR MAY 7 MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MALTA CONTRIBUTORS AND UK, USNATO CIRCULATED A LETTER QUOTING MALTESE CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTER OF APRIL 21 CONCERNING SPECIAL PAYMENTS ( REF A ), AND SETTING FORTH THE CONSIDERATIONS CONTAINED REFS B AND C ON QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT SUSPEND THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOM AND MAKE THEIR MAY 14 SPECIAL

PAYMENTS AS PLANNED. CONTRIBUTORS MEETING THEREFORE TOOK PLACE ON BASIS OF NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.

2. US REP REITERATED POINT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO BE GUIDED BY ALLIED CONSENSUS SIMPLY TO SUSPEND THE DIALOGUE AND PAY, BUT THAT IT HAD RESERVATIONS AS SET FORTH IN LETTER AND WANTED ALLIED VIEWS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF UK.

3. ITALIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TO SUSPEND DIALOGUE AND MAKE THE MAY 14 PAYMENT. UK REP SAID HMG MAINTAINED ITS POSITION THAT IT WAS UP TO THE CONTRIBUTORS WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS. HOWEVER, THE UK SAW NO REASON NOT TO MAKE THE MAY 14 PAYMENT AS SCHEDULED. UK BELIEVED MIZZI LETTER CONSTITUTED "GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE" OF THE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OFFER. HMG RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF THE US CONCERNS SET FORTH IN USNATO LETTER BUT DID NOT THINK ANYTHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT THEM. UK REP REPORTED THAT DOUGLAS- HOME MEETING WITH MINTOFF OVER PAST WEEKEND HAD BEEN AFFABLE. MINTOFF HAD NOT RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SPECIAL PAYMENTS AS HE CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE DONE HAD HE BEEN ANGRY ABOUT THE SITUATION. FRG AND NETHERLANDS POSITIONS WERE THAT CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD SUSPEND DIALOGUE AND PAY AS SCHEDULED. BELGIAN REP WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO MAKE CONDITIONS FOR PAYMENT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, BUT COULD GO ALONG WITH THE ALLIED CONSENSUS.

4. IT WAS THUS AGREED THAT THE FIVE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS WOULD AGREE BY "SILENCE PROCEDURE" TO A DOCUMENT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD SOON ISSUE REFLECTING THEIR CONSENSUS REGARDING PAYMENT AS SCHEDULED, AND THE FULL COUNCIL WOULD BE INVITED TO GIVE ITS FORMAL APPROVAL THROUGH THE "SILENCE PROCEDURE" WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. ITALIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT MINTOFF MIGHT CREATE A SERIES OF DIFFICULTIES IF THE CONTRIBUTORS DID NOT MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS IN THE AMOUNTS MENTIONED ON JANUARY 10. THESE DIFFICULTIES MIGHT INCLUDE PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH IN CONNECTION WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC UK- MALTA AGREEMENT. ITALY WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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THEREFORE THINKING OF PROPOSING THAT THE CONTRIBUTORS TELL THE GOM BEFORE OCTOBER PAYMENT DATE THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO FIX THEIR 1973 CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF THE JANUARY 10 FIGURES. AS A SEPARATE MATTER, HE REPEATED THAT ITALY WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR SO LONG AS THE BASIC AGREEMENT WAS BEING SATISFACTORILY IMPLEMENTED.

6. US REP REVIEWED LONG- STANDING US POSITION REGARDING SPECIAL PAYMENTS AND THE BASIS FOR THEM. HE ALSO HOPED THAT ALL CONTRIBUTORS WOULD BEAR IN MIND THE NECESSITY TO COORDINATE MOVES WITHIN NATO, AND NOT TO SIGNAL THE GOM THAT ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENTS WERE OR MIGHT BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE TO MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS BEYOND 1973, OR TO FIX AMOUNTS OF SPECIAL

PAYMENTS, UNLESS ALL THE ALLIED AGREED.

7. NETHERLANDS AND BELGIAN REPS NOTED THAT TO FIX THE AMOUNTS OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS WOULD GO AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE ON WHICH ALL ALLIES HAD BEEN AGREED. FRG REP MADE SAME POINT TO US REP PRIVATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING, AND DOUBTED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD GO ALONG WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL IF THE ITALIANS FORMALLY MADE IT.

8. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE FIVE CONTRIBUTORS AND THE UK MEET AGAIN ON MAY 21 FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ITALIAN PROPOSAL. RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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